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Title: Need to set up a Regional Centre of Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme at Cuttack, Odisha.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Ministry of Defence has launched Ex-servicemen contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) for comprehensive Medicare of Ex-servicemen and their dependents since 2002. Eligibility conditions under the scheme stipulate that a person should be an Ex-servicemen and should be in receipt of pension/disability pension or family pension from Defence authorities. Dependent parents, children upto 25 years of age are covered under ECHS membership.

Initially three ECHS poly clinics were started in January 2005 at Bhubaneswar, Baleswar and Berhampur. Another six poly clinics have been sanctioned and scheduled to function from Sambalpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Puri, Bhawanipatna and Koraput.

To oversee functioning of ECHS Poly Clinics and clearance of bills, ex-corporate Hospitals, Regional Centres, thirteen in number are functioning in various States. Odisha's 3 polyclinics are under Regional Centre Patna (Bihar). Of late Government has sanctioned 15 more Regional Centres but unfortunately Odisha has not got even one.

Odisha with total nine polyclinics functioning at present deserves a Regional Centre of its own rather than coming under Regional Centre Ranchi or Vishakhapatnam. Today Jharkhand with total of six ECHS poly clinics has a Regional Centre sanctioned in that State. Odisha with 9 poly clinics don't have a Regional Centre. Kerala has been sanctioned two Regional Centres, one at Kochin and the second at Thiruvananthapuram.

I urge upon the Government to sanction construction of an ECHS Regional Centre at Cuttack for easy functioning, command and control of poly clinics.